DC
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
ALL NEW!
60¢
NO. 532
JUNE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THAT H.I.V.E. ASSASSIN--BLASTING ME WITH KRYPTONITE--
--IS LOIS LANE!
ACTION-PLUS with The ATOM™
THE WORLD'S SMALLEST SUPER-HERO!
ANDRU & GIACOIA

METROPOLIS AIRFIELD, 7:30 AM-- MASKED FIGURES SCURRY ACROSS RAIN-SLICKED TARMAC...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
H.I.V.E. AND GO SEEK!
C'MON, AVERY IT! WE NEED THESE CHOPPERS TO REPLACE THE ONES SUPERMAN DESTROYED LAST WEEK.
THESE ARMED WARRIORS ARE THE ADVANCE GUARD FOR A GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS KNOWN AS THE H.I.V.E.
WE NEED 'EM FOR THE 16TH OR EVERYTHING'LL FAIL!
OH, NO-- OVER THERE! IT'S HIM!
A HIERARCHY OF INTERNATIONAL VENGEANCE AND EXTERMINATIONS.
TAKE OFF! MAYBE ONE OF US CAN MAKE IT FREE!
I'VE SWORN TO PUT THE H.I.V.E. OUT OF BUSINESS--
--AND SUPERMAN ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD!
DON'T BELIEVE IT, FRIEND!
S-3874
MARV WOLFMAN . writer
CURT SWAN . penciller
DAVE HUNT . inker
JOHN COSTANZA . letterer
JERRY SERPE . colorist
JULIUS SCHWARTZ . editor

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THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME, SUPER-CREEP!
UNNHHH!
MAYBE YOU FORGOT ABOUT ALL THAT KRYPTONITE WE STOLE SOME TIME AGO *-- BUT WE DIDN'T!
* ACTION COMICS #513 -- JULIE
BUT EVEN WEAK AND HELPLESS, THE MAN OF STEEL TUMBLES GROUNDWARD IN SUCH A WAY THAT...
BLAST! HE KNOCKED ME OFF BALANCE!
D-DROPPED MY K-RIFLE!
MEANWHILE, WATCHING FROM WINE-COLORED SHADOWS...
WHEN MY LEADS BROUGHT ME TO THIS AIRPORT TONIGHT--
--I CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE SUPERMAN HERE!
THIS SCOOP IS BOUND TO WIN ME A PULITZER OR MY NAME ISN'T LOIS L--EH?
ONE OF THE H.I.V.E. WARRIORS MAKING A BREAK FOR IT...
...AND SUPERMAN'S TOO BUSY CRUSHING THAT OTHER TROOPER'S RIFLE!
WELL, I GUESS THAT LEAVES THIS ONE TO ME!
DOWN, BOY! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
EXCEPT TO METROPOLIS PRISON!
WHAT? GET OFF ME, YOU CLOWN!
OFF ME!
2

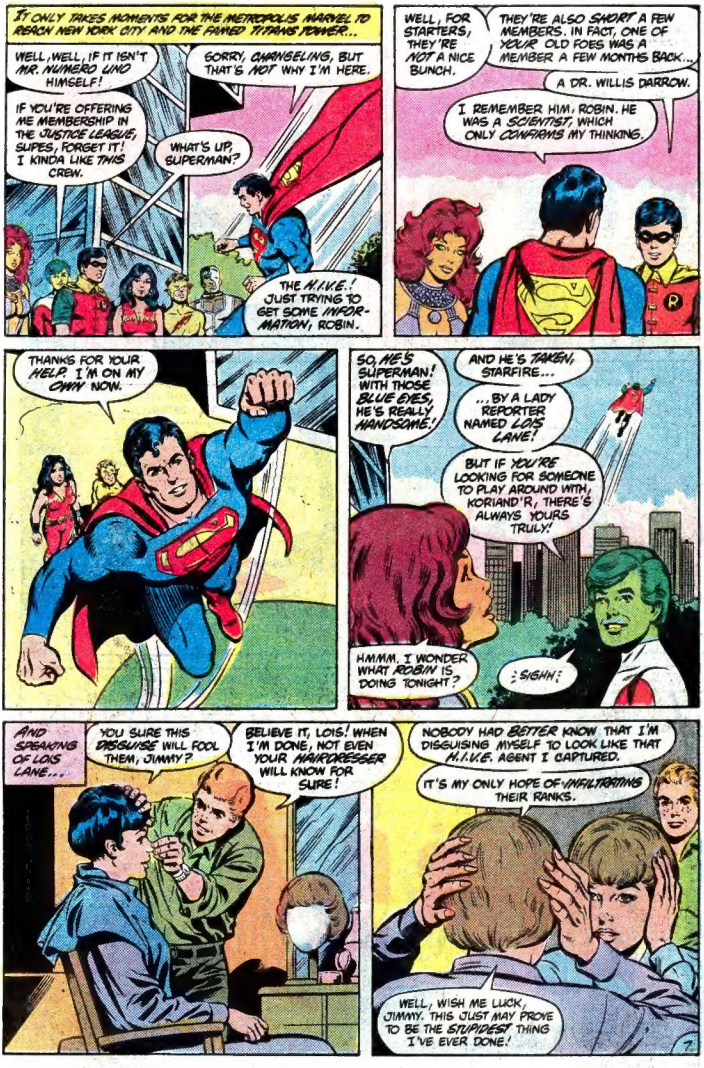
AND, AS OUR INTREPID REPORTER BRINGS DOWN HER PREY...
CAN'T GIVE THESE OTHERS A CHANCE TO USE THEIR WEAPONS ON ME.
AND A SHORT BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH WILL GUARANTEE IT!
WHOOOOSHH
WITHOUT OUR KRYPTONITE WEAPONS, WE'RE HELPLESS!
EVERYONE--SPLIT! HE CAN'T CATCH US ALL!
SISHH...
THEY NEVER LEARN, DO THEY?
IT WOULD ONLY TAKE A SECOND OR TWO AT SUPER-SPEED TO ROUND THEM ALL UP...
...BUT I'D RATHER CAPTURE THEM IN SUCH A WAY THEY'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE TRYING SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THIS AGAIN!
THEIR CHOPPER WILL HAVE TO BE SCRAPPED ANYWAY...
...SO NOBODY SHOULD MIND MY USING A BIT OF SUPER-PRESSURE TO REDUCE THIS METAL CABIN--
--INTO SO MUCH FLEXIBLE STEEL WIRE!
OKAY, FELLAS, GET READY FOR YOUR LAST ROUND-UP!
HMM, FIRST TOSS! NOT BAD!
WATCHING ALL THOSE WESTERNS WHEN I WAS A KID FINALLY PAID OFF!
3

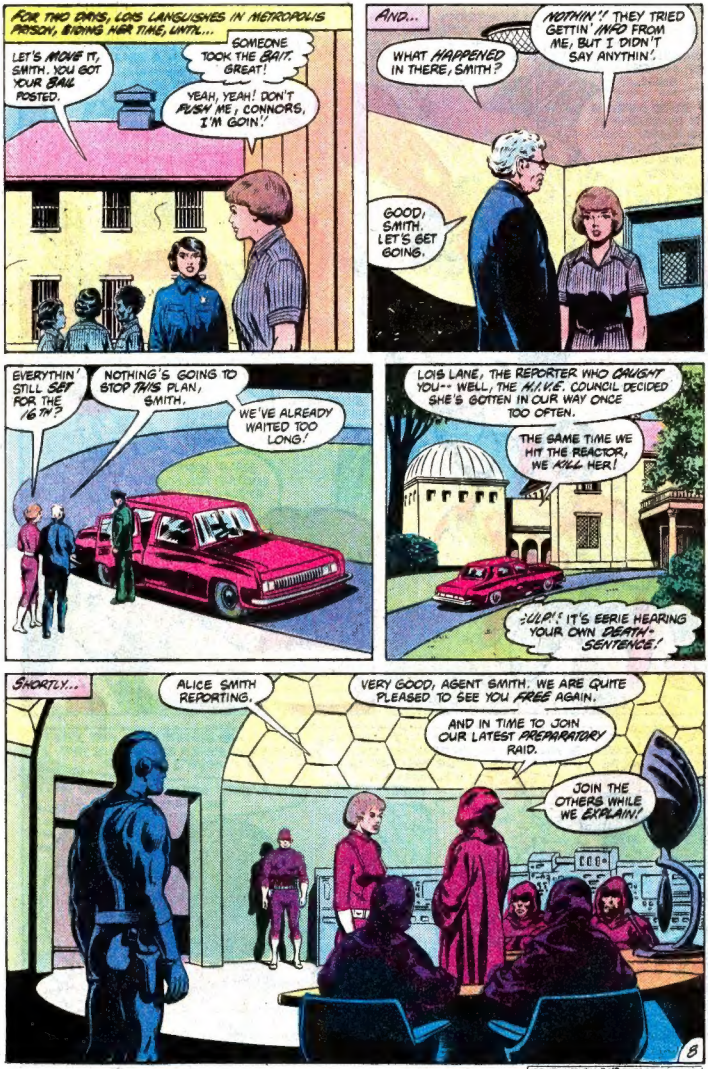
OKAY, BOYS--NOW WHAT'S THIS CADER ON THE 16TH THAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
FORGET IT, MAN--THE M.I.K.E. WOULD KILL US IF WE TALKED!
THEY CERTAINLY WOULD, WOULDN'T THEY!
THEN AGAIN, YOU KNEW WHAT YOU WERE GETTING INTO WHEN YOU JOINED THAT MURDEROUS GROUP.
OKAY--I'LL FIGURE THIS OUT ON MY OWN!
HUNH? HE DIDN'T SEE ME. MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE CALLED OUT TO HIM.
BUT THEN, I WASN'T IN THE MOOD TO GET A LECTURE ABOUT MY COMING OUT HERE ALONE RATHER THAN CALLING IN THE POLICE.
OH, WELL, I DO HAVE ONE M.I.K.E. HOOD HERE! AND THAT'LL DO FOR--
OH, NO! UNDER THE HOOD--I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WGBS
...SO LET'S SHIFT OUR SCENE TO THE PENTHOUSE FLOOR OF THE GALAXY BROADCASTING BUILDING, WHERE...
WHAT DID LOIS SEE? THE ANSWER WILL COME SOON ENOUGH...
... SUPERMAN SAID TWO 'COPTERS GOT AWAY AND HE NEVER FIGURED OUT JUST WHY THE M.I.K.E. WAS STEALING THEM...
... OR WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON THE 16TH.
CLARK, PERRY--LOOK HERE! OUR PRODIGAL DAUGHTER RETURNS!
4

CONTINUED ON 5 BEF PAGE FOLLOWING

WITH A MEMBER OF THE M.I.K.E. IN TOW! SEEMS THEY'RE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY DESTROYER!
A WOMAN? WHERE DID YOU FIND HER, LOIS?
IN THE YELLOW PAGES, CLARK, UNDER "CREEPS"!
WHERE DO YOU THINK? I WAS HIDING OUT AT THE AIRPORT WHEN THE M.I.K.E. STRUCK!
I HAD AN ANONYMOUS TIP THAT THEY'D BE THERE!
TAKE IT EASY, LOIS. I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO ANGRY BEFORE!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT, JIMMY? I'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED TWICE BY THESE JOKERS!
I WANT TO SEE THEM STOPPED! AND SINCE THE POLICE SEEM HELPLESS, I'M GOING TO BE THE ONE WHO WILL DO IT!
LOIS, YOU'RE A REPORTER. YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO GET INVOLVED WITH DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES LIKE THIS!
I'M AFRAID I AGREE WITH CLARK. YOU'RE OFF THE M.I.K.E. ASSIGNMENT, LOIS.
DO THAT TO ME, PERRY, AND I'LL QUIT! WHEN I BUST THEM, EVERY PAPER IN TOWN WILL WANT MY EXCLUSIVE!
SO WHY NOT BE REASONABLE...
REASONABLE? I CARE FOR YOU TOO MUCH TO HAVE YOU GET HURT!
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, DO I? ALL RIGHT, LOIS, YOU'RE STILL ON!
BUT I WANT YOU REPORTING IN -- EVERY FOUR HOURS!
5

SHORTLY AT THE MOUNTAINTOP S.T.A.R. LAB'S NUCLEAR REACTOR...
...LANA LANG REPORTING AS THESE NUCLEAR PROTESTORS BEGIN THE SIXTH DAY OF THEIR WEEK-LONG VIGIL.
AFTER WEATHERING TWO MAJOR ACCIDENTS HERE IN THE LAST YEAR, AND AFTER HAVING BEEN SHUT DOWN FOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS...
...THIS S.T.A.R. REACTOR WILL BE OPERATING AGAIN ON THE 16TH OF THIS MONTH--
--A FACT THAT HAS THESE PROTESTORS WORRIED.
THE DAY WILL BEGIN AS THE NUCLEAR WASTE STORED HERE SINCE THE ACCIDENTS IS TAKEN BY TRAIN TO A DUMPING SITE IN COLORADO..
...BUT THE MAJOR EVENT WILL BE THE STARTING UP AGAIN OF THIS CRISIS-PLAGUED FACILITY WHICH PROVIDES POWER FOR MORE THAN HALF OUR CITY.
S.T.A.R. SAYS THE REACTOR IS SAFE. THESE PROTESTORS DISAGREE. WHO IS RIGHT? A WORRIED METROPOLIS WAITS FOR THE ANSWER.
THIS IS LANA LANG FOR WGBS NEWS.
BEAUTIFUL JOB, LANA. THAT'S A WRAP!
MEANWHILE, IN AN APARTMENT AT 344 CLINTON STREET...
...STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT THE H.I.V.E. IS UP TO.
IN FACT, THIS MAKES ME REALIZE HOW LITTLE I DO KNOW ABOUT THAT GROUP--
--OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY SCIENTIFICALLY ORIENTED.
WELL, FORTUNATELY I KNOW SOME PEOPLE WHO DO KNOW MORE ABOUT THEM--
--THE NEW TEEN TITANS!


IT ONLY TAKES MOMENTS FOR THE METROPOLIS MARVEL TO REACH NEW YORK CITY AND THE FAMED TITANS TOWER...
WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T MR. NUMERO UNO HIMSELF!
IF YOU'RE OFFERING ME MEMBERSHIP IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, SUPES, FORGET IT! I KINDA LIKE THIS CREW.
SORRY, CHANGELING, BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.
WHAT'S UP, SUPERMAN?
THE M.A.I.V.E.! JUST TRYING TO GET SOME INFORMATION, ROBIN.
WELL, FOR STARTERS, THEY'RE NOT A NICE BUNCH.
THEY'RE ALSO SHORT A FEW MEMBERS. IN FACT, ONE OF YOUR OLD FOES WAS A MEMBER A FEW MONTHS BACK...
A DR. WILLIS DARROW.
I REMEMBER HIM, ROBIN. HE WAS A SCIENTIST, WHICH ONLY CONFIRMS MY THINKING.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. I'M ON MY OWN NOW.
SO, HE'S SUPERMAN! WITH THOSE BLUE EYES, HE'S REALLY HANDSOME!
AND HE'S TAKEN, STARFIRE...
...BY A LADY REPORTER NAMED LOIS LANE!
BUT IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO PLAY AROUND WITH, KORIAND'R, THERE'S ALWAYS YOURS TRULY!
HMMM. I WONDER WHAT ROBIN IS DOING TONIGHT?
;SIGHH;
AND SPEAKING OF LOIS LANE...
YOU SURE THIS DISGUISE WILL FOOL THEM, JIMMY?
BELIEVE IT, LOIS! WHEN I'M DONE, NOT EVEN YOUR HAIRDRESSER WILL KNOW FOR SURE!
NOBODY HAD BETTER KNOW THAT I'M DISGUISING MYSELF TO LOOK LIKE THAT M.A.I.V.E. AGENT I CAPTURED.
IT'S MY ONLY HOPE OF INFILTRATING THEIR RANKS.
WELL, WISH ME LUCK, JIMMY. THIS JUST MAY PROVE TO BE THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER DONE!
7


FOR TWO DAYS, LOIS LANGUISHES IN METROPOLIS PRISON, BIDING HER TIME, UNTIL...
LET'S MOVE IT, SMITH. YOU GOT YOUR BAIL POSTED.
SOMEONE TOOK THE BAIT. GREAT!
YEAH, YEAH! DON'T PUSH ME, CONNORS, I'M GOIN'!
AND...
WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE, SMITH?
NOTHIN'! THEY TRIED GETTIN' INFO FROM ME, BUT I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHIN'.
GOOD, SMITH. LET'S GET GOING.
EVERYTHIN' STILL SET FOR THE 16TH?
NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP THIS PLAN, SMITH.
WE'VE ALREADY WAITED TOO LONG!
LOIS LANE, THE REPORTER WHO CAUGHT YOU-- WELL, THE M.I.K.E. COUNCIL DECIDED SHE'S GOTTEN IN OUR WAY ONCE TOO OFTEN.
THE SAME TIME WE HIT THE REACTOR, WE KILL HER!
YULP! IT'S EERIE HEARING YOUR OWN DEATH-SENTENCE!
SHORTLY...
ALICE SMITH REPORTING.
VERY GOOD, AGENT SMITH. WE ARE QUITE PLEASED TO SEE YOU FREE AGAIN.
AND IN TIME TO JOIN OUR LATEST PREPARATORY RAID.
JOIN THE OTHERS WHILE WE EXPLAIN!
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CONTINUED ON 2HP PAGE FOLLOWING

NIGHT. SILHOUETTES SCAMPER ACROSS SHADOW-STREWN ROOFTOPS...
AHEAD OF THEM, THE SKYLIGHT.
LIKE SPIDERS THEY SLIDE DOWN SILKEN CORDS TOWARD THE FLOOR BELOW...
...SILENTLY HURRYING TOWARD ONE SPECIAL ROOM WHERE THEIR PRIZE AWAITS.
QUICKLY, INSULATED RADIATION-SUITS ARE PACKED INTO CLOTH BAGS. THEY TAKE THREE DOZEN AND LEAVE THE REST BEHIND.
THEN THEY TURN TO LEAVE...
...ONLY TO FIND THEIR EXIT BARRED!
KRASH!
WELL, I DON'T BELIEVE IT-- THAT TIP PROVED TRUE AFTER ALL!
AND HERE I WAS SUSPICIOUS OVER AN ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL!
BUT LOOK WHAT MY EFFORTS BROUGHT ME--
-- NINE GOONS WAITING FOR THE PRISON EXPRESS TO TAKE THEM TO THEIR NEW HOMES!
GET YOUR WEAPONS READY!
HE CAN'T TAKE US ALL ON!
FIRE!!

"FIRE"? DOESN'T HE KNOW BULLETS CAN'T HURT SUPERMAN?
OH, NO! THIS RIFLE ISN'T FIRING BULLETS--
--IT'S KRYPTONITE!!
AND SUPERMAN'S RIGHT IN MY LINE OF FIRE! I CAN'T POSSIBLY MISS HIM!
OH, MY HEAVEN-- HE'S FALLING!
WHAT DO I DO? I CAN'T KEEP FIRING...
...OR THIS KRYPTONITE RAY WILL KILL HIM!
BUT IF I STOP, THEY'LL KNOW I'M NOT ONE OF THEM!
WHAT DO I DO?
SMITH! KEEP FIRING WHILE WE PACK AWAY THESE SUITS!
LOOK AT HIM... HE'S DYING... TURNING GREEN!
MY GOD! I'M KILLING THE MAN I LOVE!
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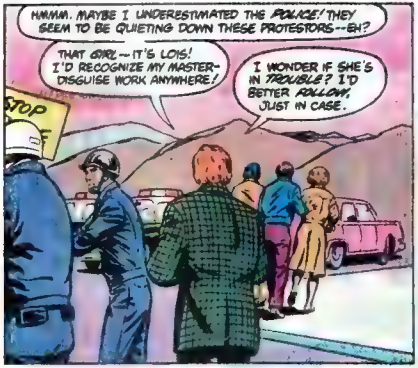
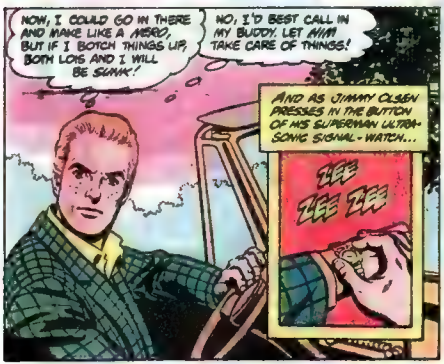
I--I CAN'T STAND TO LOOK AT HIM! IT HURTS...
NO, I'VE GOT TO STOP! I CAN'T CONTINUE THIS NO MATTER WHAT IT MEANS!
PLEASE... THE PAIN... THE PAIN IS KILLING ME... PLEASE STOP..!
I AM... RIGHT NOW! MY LOVE...
THE A.I.K.E. MAY TURN ON ME... EVEN AS I'LL ME BEFORE SUPERMAN RECOVERS--
--BUT I CAN'T LET HIM DIE... I CAN'T!
BUT JUST THEN...
PERFECT! I HAVE MY OUT!
SMITH! KEEP UP THE ATTACK TILL HE'S DEAD!
HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU FOOL! YOU'VE TURNED YOUR RAY AWAY FROM HIM!
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME A FOOL! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DISTRACTED ME!
I WAS DOING MY JOB PERFECTLY TILL YOU INTERFERED!
AND NOW, BECAUSE OF YOU, SUPERMAN'S ESCAPING!
THANK HEAVEN!
THAT WAS LOIS... SHE PURPOSELY SHIFTED THE KRYPTONITE-RAY TO LET ME ESCAPE!
SHE COULD BE IN DANGER BECAUSE OF THAT, BUT I'M STILL TOO WEAK TO DO MUCH GOOD.
I'LL HAVE TO REST... AND KEEP A TELESCOPIC EYE ON HER JUST IN CASE.
MEANTIME, I CAN TRY TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE A/I/K/E. IS UP TO.

AND, A FEW MOMENTS LATER, IN THE GALAXY BROADCASTING OFFICES...
OH, HI THERE, LANA. WHAT'S COOKING?
YOUR GOOSE, CLARK, IF YOU KEEP SHOWING UP SO LATE!
WE NEED A RUN-THROUGH ON THE NEWS, BUT YOU NEVER GIVE US ANY TIME.
GOSH, LANA, YOU KNOW I TRY TO GET HERE EARLIER, BUT THINGS NEVER SEEM TO WORK OUT RIGHT.
ANYTHING SPECIAL ON LINE FOR TONIGHT?
I'M DOING AN UPDATE ON TOMORROW'S RE-OPENING OF THE S.T.A.R. NUCLEAR FACILITY.
TOMORROW? THAT'S THE 16TH-- GOOD GRIEF! IT'S BEEN RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME ALL THIS TIME!
CLARK? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
AIR-TIME'S IN FIVE MINUTES!
TELL JOSH I SUDDENLY TOOK SICK! I CAN'T MAKE IT!
JOSH'LL KILL YOU FOR THIS, CLARK. HE'LL KILL YOU!
IF I DON'T KILL YOU FIRST!
AND HIGH ATOP METROPOLIS MOUNTAIN, WHERE THE NUCLEAR REACTOR AWAITS REAWAKENING...
MY GOSH! THE PROTESTORS ARE GOING WILD!
POLICE ARE TRYING TO STOP THEM, BUT THEY JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FORCE!
STOP NUCLEAR TIME BOMBS
NO NUKES
MEN CAN NUKES
AND I'VE GOT IT ALL ON FILM! OLSEN, YOU'RE A WONDER!
12


HMMM. MAYBE I UNDERESTIMATED THE POLICE! THEY SEEM TO BE QUIETING DOWN THESE PROTESTORS--EH?
THAT GIRL -- IT'S LOIS! I'D RECOGNIZE MY MASTER-DISGUISE WORK ANYWHERE!
I WONDER IF SHE'S IN TROUBLE? I'D BETTER FOLLOW, JUST IN CASE.
STOP

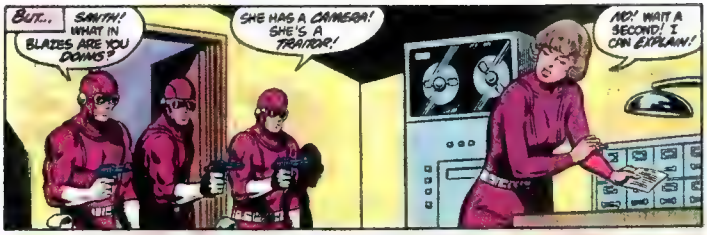
SHORTLY...
I DON'T LIKE THIS...THEY'RE TAKING LOIS INSIDE THERE.
AND MY REPORTER'S INSTINCT TELLS ME SOMETHING'S DREADFULLY WRONG!


NOW, I COULD GO IN THERE AND MAKE LIKE A HERO, BUT IF I BOTCH THINGS UP, BOTH LOIS AND I WILL BE SUNK!
NO, I'D BEST CALL IN MY BUDDY. LET HIM TAKE CARE OF THINGS!
AND AS JIMMY OLSEN PRESSES IN THE BUTTON OF HIS SUPERMAN ULTRA-SONIC SIGNAL-WATCH...
ZEE ZEE ZEE

...WE MOVE INSIDE THE ALIKE HEAD-QUARTERS, WHERE...
SMITH, YOU STAY HERE! YOU OTHERS, COME WITH ME!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, SIR.

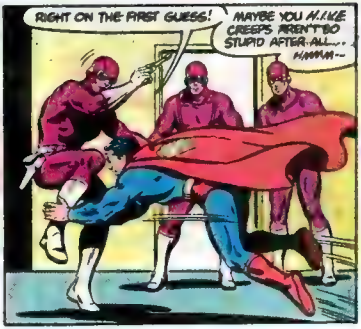
THIS IS GREAT!
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GET INTO THIS FILE-ROOM.
NOW I HAVE CLEAR ACCESS TO THEIR PLANS AND -- BINGO!

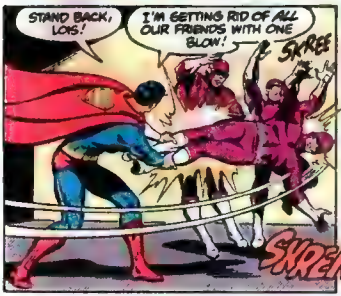
HERE IT IS, IN COMPLETE DETAIL --
--AND ALL RECORDED FOR POSTERITY ON MY FINGER-RING CAMERA!


BUT..
SMITH! WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING?
SHE HAS A CAMERA! SHE'S A TRAITOR!
NO! WAIT A SECOND! I CAN EXPLAIN!

THEN START TALKING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHY ARE YOU TAKING THOSE PHOTOS?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER!
SUPERMAN--?
BAM
BAM


RIGHT ON THE FIRST GUESS!
MAYBE YOU H.I.V.E CREEPS AREN'T SO STUPID AFTER ALL... HMMM--


STAND BACK, LOIS!
I'M GETTING RID OF ALL OUR FRIENDS WITH ONE BLOW!
SKREE
SKREE

HUH? TH-THEY'RE ROBOTS?
B-BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! I KNOW THEY WERE REAL PEOPLE!
NO WAY, LOIS! MY SUPER-HEARING PICKED UP THEIR INNER MECHANICAL CONTROLS--

--JUST AS I'M PICKING UP THIS SECOND GROUP TRYING TO FLEE!
KRASH!
C'MON, GUYS, DON'T BOTHER WASTING YOUR ENERGY!
AFTER ALL, THE ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GOING--
--IS THE M.I.K.E. SCRAP-HEAP!
SKRAKKK
SKREEE
THIS JUST DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, SUPERMAN. I'VE BEEN WITH THESE PEOPLE FOR DAYS NOW.
I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FLESH AND BLOOD AND COLD, HARD STEEL.
I'M NOT DENYING THE TRUTH, LOIS. THESE ROBOTS WERE OBVIOUSLY USED JUST TO DELAY US...
...WHILE THE REAL M.I.K.E. MEMBERS ESCAPED!
YOU STAY HERE WHILE I ROUND THEM UP!
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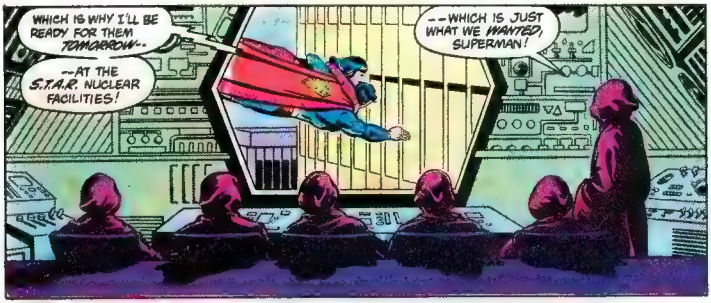
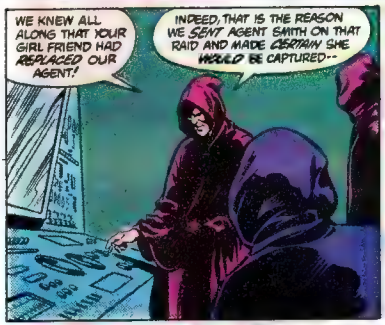
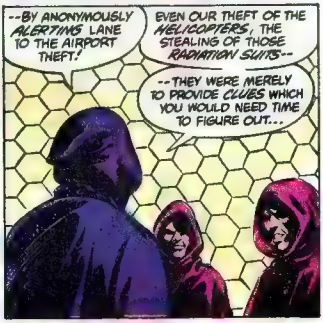
HOWEVER...
...EVEN AT SUPER-SPEED SEARCH--
--ULTIMATELY PROVES...
...FRUITLESS!
AND SO...
THEY'VE MADE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE. THEY MUST HAVE BEEN EXPECTING ME TO EVENTUALLY SHOW UP...
...BECAUSE THEY'VE ESCAPED DOWN ONE OF THESE LEAD-LINED TUNNELS!
MY X-RAY VISION CAN'T SEE THROUGH LEAD... AND MY SUPER-HEARING IS BEING DISTRACTED BY RHYTHMIC PULSING THEY'VE SET UP.
BUT AT LEAST I KNOW WHAT THEIR PLANS ARE!
AND I'VE GOT ALL THE DETAILS ON FILM!
SINCE ONLY THE ROBOTS KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING, THE REAL MAINE PEOPLE PROBABLY DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH.
CBS
THERE WILL BE NO REASON FOR THEM TO CHANGE THEIR PLANS.
16




WE KNEW ALL ALONG THAT YOUR GIRL FRIEND HAD REPLACED OUR AGENT!
INDEED, THAT IS THE REASON WE SENT AGENT SMITH ON THAT RAID AND MADE CERTAIN SHE WOULD BE CAPTURED--


--BY ANONYMOUSLY ALERTING LANE TO THE AIRPORT THEFT!
EVEN OUR THEFT OF THE HELICOPTERS, THE STEALING OF THOSE RADIATION SUITS--
--THEY WERE MERELY TO PROVIDE CLUES WHICH YOU WOULD NEED TIME TO FIGURE OUT...

...CLUES WHICH WOULD DIVERT YOUR ATTENTION FROM OUR REAL SCHEME TOMORROW!
OH, YES-- WE SHALL HAVE A SMALL FORCE OF AGENTS ON HAND TO ATTACK THE NUCLEAR FACILITY-- TO KEEP YOU BUSY...

...WHILE OUR REAL MISSION IS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ELSEWHERE!
BY TOMORROW NIGHT, SUPERMAN, THE MAFIA SHALL NOT ONLY CONTROL THE CITY OF METROPOLIS--

WHICH SETS THE STAGE FOR NEXT ISSUES: "TRACKDOWN!" ON SALE APRIL 29th! IT'S A DATE!

FROM A FALLEN FRAGMENT OF A WHITE DWARF STAR, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST RAY PALMER FASHIONED A LENS WHICH GAVE HIM THE ABILITY TO SHRINK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE! AFTER LEARNING TO CONTROL HIS WEIGHT, AS WELL, HE DONNED HIS COSTUME OF THE TINY TITAN, BATTLING CRIME AS ...

The ATOM™

CURAÇAO--THE MIDDLE MEMBER OF THE WINDWARD ISLANDS OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES,... WHERE THE SUN ALMOST ALWAYS SHINES AND THE TEMPERATURE IS CONSTANTLY IN THE 80'S...

CURAÇAO--WHERE TOURISTS FLOCK TO WATCH THE QUEEN EMMA BRIDGE, A STRUCTURE FLOATING ON PONTOONS, OPEN TO ALLOW LUXURY LINERS INTO THE HARBOR...

CURAÇAO--WHERE A VACATIONING RAY PALMER FINDS HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION WHICH THREATENS TO TURN THIS TROPICAL PARADISE INTO A...

"CARNAVAL OF CATASTROPHE!

THE TWO GUYS I MISTAKENLY THOUGHT WERE BURGLARS WERE CARRYING AN ATOMIC DEVICE...

--AND IT'S BEEN ACTIVATED!

YET IF I SHRINK DOWN TO DEACTIVATE IT, I MIGHT SET IT OFF--

-- AND BLOW CURAÇAO RIGHT OFF THE MAP!

BOB ROZAKIS, WRITER / ALEX SAVIUK, PENCILLER / FRANK CHIARAMONTE INKER / MILTON SNAPINN, LETTERER / TOM ZIUKO COLORIST / JULIUS SCHWARTZ, EDITOR

WAITAMIN--! I'M THINKING ABOUT THIS THE WRONG WAY!
IT'S NOT THE ATOM WHO IS THE NUCLEAR PHYSICIST...
SNAP!
...IT'S RAY PALMER!
SO THE SOLUTION IS TO ENLARGE TO FULL SIZE, AND THUS AVOID SETTING OFF ANOTHER "ATOMIC" CHAIN REACTION! *
* SUCH AS THE UNDERWATER ONE LAST ISSUE!--JULIE
WORKING WITH THE SMALL TOOLS HE ALWAYS CARRIES IN HIS POCKETS...
THIS ISN'T STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE--BUT A SPLIT-SECOND COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "KLIK" AND "KABOOM"!
THERE--NOW TO DISCONNECT THE ARMING DEVICE AND--
WHEW! THAT'S ONE JOB I NEVER WANT TO DO AGAIN!
BUT WHERE IN THE WORLD DID THOSE TWO GUYS GET THIS ATOMIC DEVICE?
AS SOON AS THEY COME TO--
--HUNH?!
YOU SURE DID A JOB ON US, ATOM--OR SHOULD I SAY, "PROFESSOR RAYMOND A. PALMER"?
SURPRISED THAT WE RECOGNIZE YOU? WE'RE NOT JUST A COUPLE OF DUNDERHEADS--!
WE KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT ATOMIC PHYSICS TO PUT THAT DEVICE TOGETHER--
--WHICH MEANS WE ALSO KNOW ABOUT THE BIG BRAINS IN THE FIELD... LIKE YOU!

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO--BROADCAST IT TO THE WHOLE WORLD?
NOT IF YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT! TELL THE POLICE ABOUT US AND WE TELL THE WORLD ABOUT YOUR ATOM ALTER EGO!
I THINK HE'S BOUGHT IT, FRED!
NOW LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE BRIDGE CLOSES AGAIN!
REMEMBER--KEEP OUT OF OUR BUSINESS AND WE'LL DO THE SAME FOR YOURS!
YOU SURE STALEMATED HIM...
...BUT HOW'S THE BOSS GOING TO TAKE OUR SCREWING UP THE JOB?
I LET THEM THINK THE IDEA OF REVEALING MY DUAL IDENTITY SCARED ME INTO LETTING THEM GO!
THERE'S MORE TO THIS SITUATION THAN THOSE TWO CHARACTERS LET ON--
...AND TO LOOK INTO IT...
...IS RIGHT UP...
...THE ATOM'S ALLEY!
KLIK
KLIK
CARRIED BY THE TRADE WINDS WHICH CONSTANTLY BLOW IN THE SOUTHERN CARIBBEAN, THE TINY TITAN FLIES AFTER HIS QUARRIES...
IF THIS WERE A SPY-MOVIE, I'D PLANT A "BUG" TO TRACK THEM TO THEIR HIDEOUT--
--BUT A FEATHERWEIGHT ATOM IS BETTER THAN ANY MECHANICAL DEVICE...
"...AND PUTS ME IN THE MIDST OF THE ACTION..."
YOU GOING TO TELL MR. G ABOUT OUR--ER, LITTLE TROUBLE?
NO WAY! WHY MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT!

HELLO, MR. G.-- FRED HERE!
YES, WE RAN INTO SOME UNEXPECTED, UNAVOIDABLE INTERFERENCE...
THIS MR. G. MUST BE CALLING THE SHOTS! I'LL DROP IN ON HIM...
...BY TRAVELING AT TELEPHONIC SPEED THROUGH THE WIRE...
WELL, BOYS--SOUNDS TO ME LIKE Y'ALL BETTER GET INTO PLAN-B!
ONLY THIS TIME MAKE SURE NOTHING GOES WRONG!
NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT PLAN-B IS HERE--
--SO IT'S BACK TO CURAÇAO-- BUT NOT BEFORE CHECKING THE PHONE-NUMBER HERE!
214-555-0162! I'LL "CALL BACK" LATER!
MR. G. IS ABOUT TO HANG UP--GOT TO HURRY!
I'LL BE WAITING TO HEAR THE GOOD WORD!
MADE IT INTO THE LINE JUST IN TIME TO BE PROPELLED ALONG BY THE SOUND OF MR. G. HANGING UP!
GOT TO REACH THE END OF THE LINE BEFORE HIS HENCHMAN "ORACLES" THE RECEIVER--
CLIK
--OR I'LL BE STUCK HERE INDEFINITELY!

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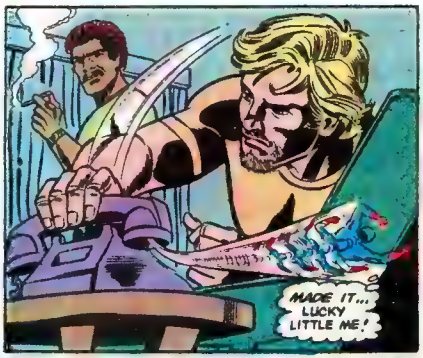
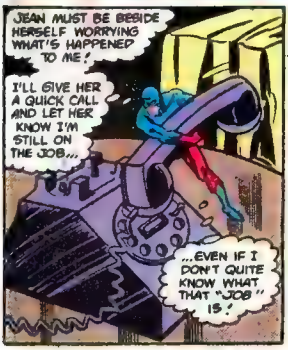
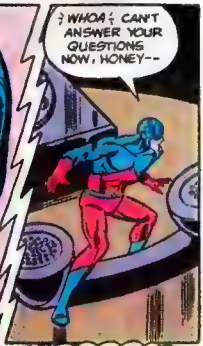

MADE IT... LUCKY LITTLE ME!

PLAN-B IS "GO"! LET'S GO TO MY ROOM AND SET IT UP.
THAT'S OKAY BY ME! IT'LL BE FAR MORE FUN THAN PLAN-A!


JEAN MUST BE BESIDE HERSELF WORRYING WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME!
I'LL GIVE HER A QUICK CALL AND LET HER KNOW I'M STILL ON THE JOB...
...EVEN IF I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT THAT "JOB" IS!

RAY-- WHERE ARE YOU? WHO WERE THOSE TWO GUYS ON THE BRIDGE? WHAT'S HAP--


WHOA! CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS NOW, HONEY--

--ONLY TIME TO TELL YOU THERE'S AN ANTI-NUKE PLOT TO--

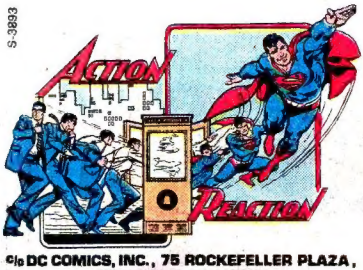
UH-OH! HERE THEY COME! GOT TO HANG UP BEFORE THEY SPOT ME!
CLIK!
BUT WHAT'S WITH THEIR PIRATE COSTUMES?

PALMER DID A REAL NUMBER ON THIS THING--BUT I'VE PUT IT TOGETHER SO MANY TIMES I CAN DO IT WITH MY EYES CLOSED!
AS LONG AS IT WORKS WHEN IT'S SUPPOSED TO!
BUT WHEN IS THAT?
I COULD STOP THEM HERE AND NOW--BUT I STILL DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THEIR TERRORIST PLOT--
--OR HOW TO STOP FUTURE ONES!
THEY'RE LEAVING--AND SO AM I!
IN THE STREETS OF WILLEMSTAD, THE ANNUAL CARNAVAL PARADE IS UNDERWAY...
SEE, AL--WOULDN'T THIS MAKE A GREAT BACKDROP FOR A STORY?
YEAH, SURE, BOB--AND I'LL BET YOU PUT THE WHOLE FREAKIN' PARADE INTO AN EIGHT-PASER!
DON'T COMPLAIN--AT LEAST IT GOT LAURIE AND JODI TO STOP SHOPPING FOR A WHILE!
HEY, GUYS--CHECK OUT THAT PIRATE-SHIP FLOAT!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY--IT WON'T FIT IN OUR LIVING ROOM!
AND ABOARD THE "SHIP," A SIX-INCH STOWAWAY...
ODD...AFTER PLACING THE ATOMIC-DEVICE IN A CHEST, THEY'RE WANDERING ABOUT THE SHIP SHOOTING OFF FAKE CANNONS!
DON'T DARE HOLD OFF ANY LONGER! HAVE TO DISMANTLE THE BOMB AGAIN--THIS TIME AS AN "INSIDE JOB"!
AND TO PLAY IT SAFE, I'LL SHRINK DOWN TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE BEFORE I GET CLOSE TO IT--
--ELIMINATING THE CHANCE THAT A SIZE-CHANGE WILL TRIGGER IT!

BUT INSIDE THE CHEST...
WHA--?!? THE BOMB IS NOT HERE!
WHILE I WAS CONCENTRATING ON ONE OF THE "PIRATES," HIS PARTNER MUST'VE TAKEN OUT THE DEVICE!
PRINCESS ISLES WELCOMES NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS CONVENTION
BUT WHAT DID HE DO WITH IT?
;UH-OH! THE REVIEWING STAND IS FULL OF MY FELLOW-NUKERS!
AND "FEARLESS FREDDY" IS ABOUT TO SHOOT OFF ONE OF THE CANNONS AT THEM!
IT ISN'T HARD TO GUESS WHAT WILL BE COMING OUT OF IT!
...TO PLAN-B!
...AN END...
PUTTING...
MIND IF I GET IN THE FIRST ATOM-IC STRIKE?
HUNH-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

FRED--WHAT'S KEEPING YOU? BLAST AWAY!
FRED--?!
NO TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM...
WRONG-O! YOU'LL FIND OUT--
--AS SOON AS 180 POUNDS OF ME COME DOWN ON THE FRONT END OF THIS CANNON!
WHAK
THEN, WHEN THE PARADE'S BEEN HALTED BY THE TINY TITAN AND NUCLEAR PHYSICISTS SUMMONED ABOARD SHIP...
NO PROBLEM, ATOM--WE'LL GET THIS ATOMIC DEVICE DEFUSED!
HOW ARE OUR PHONY PIRATES DOING, OFFICER?
NOT GOOD, ATOM--
--THEY'RE BOTH DEAD!
WHAT--?! DOES THAT MEAN I--?
AN EXPLOSIVE TURN OF EVENTS... WITH SHOCKING CONSEQUENCES--IN NEXT ISSUE'S
"GROUND ZERO... WHERE?"

S-3893



c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Julie and Bob,

Perhaps it is not the question: "Will Satanis return to destroy *Superman*?" that plagues the one who reads "Sorcery Over Stonehenge", but rather, "How can the Man of Steel defeat such a formidable opponent?" Fortunately, *Superman* has a number of favorable options at his disposal to help "steel" him for the next battle with the "Ruler of 1,000,000 A.D." Remember back in *WORLD'S FINEST* #208 when *Superman*'s Earth-2 buddy, *Dr. Fate*, offered to make *Superman* immune to magic with his own sorcerous spell? If the doc could immunize *Superman* at least temporarily and conditionally against the effects of Satanis' magic, the Man of Steel would at least be on even terms with the sorcerer. Or *Superman* could enlist the aid of fellow Justice Leaguer and magic-worker Zatanna possibly in a future issue of *DC COMICS PRESENTS*. So it doesn't necessarily seem such a bleak prospect after all when the Caped Kryptonian squares off against his new foe in the near future. I leave this task in the capable hands of marvelous Marv Wolfman who started this mess in the first place.

Swan's art remains as timelessly, consistently good as ever. Maybe he doesn't dazzle you like a Perez or a Garcia, but Swan is (in my opinion) your best *Superman* artist because of his penchant for detail, easy-on-the-eyes layouts, and stalwart professionalism that keeps him at the drawing board year after year after year! He's been at it so long that when one first imagines the image of *Superman*, it is automatically Swan's. The Swan-*Superman* is the definitive *Superman* in spite of the fact that there were other *Superman* artists long before Curt's time. May he draw *Superman* forever.

"Air Wave Under the Waves" was sea-worthy and on the beam. Credit goes to Rozakis for teaming two seemingly "unteamable" allies in a credible format. But next issue, *Aquaman* must carry the ball alone against the so-called Land Masters unless *Green Lantern* makes a check on things and lends a hand (and ring). Inker Jensen's detail made the art sing. I'd love to see him teamed with Swan. It would be every bit as good as the famous Swanderson duo (Curt and inker Murphy Anderson). DO it, OK?

Oh yes, thank you, Curt, for allowing Lois' hair to grow. Now if only Bob Oksner could be convinced to draw her like this... (sigh).

THE FISH
1711 Black Oak Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910

If you'll check out current issues of SUPERMAN FAMILY, you'll see that Lois' hairstyle has indeed changed there too, Fish. As for having a Swan/Jensen art combination, well, in the world of DC Comics, anything is possible! (Almost anything! We doubt you'll ever see Curt Swan inked by—BR)

*****

Dear Editor,

Superman's traditional rescue of Lois and his triumph of good over evil becomes even more exciting in "Sorcery Over Stonehenge" when the evil he faces is Lord Satanis. This guy is no Mr. Mxyzptlk! Involving the Man of Steel in a tug-of-war between two super-magicians he is helpless against forced me to ask, "How is he gonna get outta this one?!" When *Superman* finally won by the skin of his teeth, I was satisfied with an excellent story, and excited that the battle is not yet over. I'm anxious to see Satanis fight *Zatanna, Dr. Fate, the Spectre,* and the whole darn *Justice League*!!

I enjoyed "Air Wave Under the Waves" because it contained several stories within a story so perfectly. Both heroes are involved in cases of their own, but a mysterious hexapus and *Green Lantern* act as catalysts to bring them together. It looks like *Aquaman* is going to another planet for an adventure—something I've always wanted to see! The art for this story and the one before it was bright and clean as the action!

NEIL AHLQUIST
1315 Madison Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Gee, Neil—Satanis, Zatanna, Dr. Fate and the Spectre? With all that magic floating around, it might turn the issue into a rabbit! Or the readers might be compelled to saw it in half!—BR

*****

Dear Editor,

In a way, it's a shame that *Superman*'s two principal weaknesses are kryptonite and magic: kryptonite since it is fairly narrow in range and can easily become repetitive and cliched; magic because *Superman* is essentially a child of science fiction and thus his interactions with the supernatural can be strangely inappropriate with *Superman* being not quite the *Superman* we are used to and the magic involved being not quite magic as it is normally handled. Still, as with the weaknesses of any heroic figure, magic and kryptonite do have their purpose: the true mettle of *Superman*'s character comes to the fore when he is confronted with a true threat to himself.

In "Sorcery Over Stonehenge" (#527) we did indeed see *Superman*'s courage in abundance, as well as his compassion for Lois. But beyond that, one thing made the issue memorable for me: the villains of the piece, Lord Satanis and Syrene, were *supremely* confident in their superiority to *Superman*. *Superman* has faced many great foes, some more powerful than these two, but all of them at least considered *Superman* to be an opponent. Satanis and Syrene looked upon *Superman only* as a mere vessel for their powers, virtually as a *thing* to be used instead of human force, let alone as an opponent. Now, that's confidence! That *Superman* was ultimately unable to defeat them, but rather the two cancelled each other out, is further testament to the correctness of their confidence.

T.M. MAPLE
Toronto, Ont.

Maybe, T.M., but let them put aside their magic for a couple of minutes to duke it out with the Man of Steel and you'll see who wins! In fact, in a one-on-one with either Satanis or Syrene, my money's still on Superman. That's *confidence!—BR*

*****

Dear Sirs,

The back-up in *ACTION* #527 was a little disappointing if only because it seemed more like an *Air Wave/Green Lantern* team-up with *Aquaman* guest-starring instead of the other way around. Still, the art was fabulous and the plot intriguing.

Some suggestions: 1) Don't let Bob Rozakis leave this series. 2) Have Dennis Jensen ink more of Alex Saviuk's work. 3) Tom Ziuko's colors were excellent. Keep him on this team too. 4) I read somewhere that *Superman* never seems to change. That's wrong, but his lettercols fit that bill. How about a change to "Action Attractions"?

BILL WANDERSKI
1251 NW 50th Avenue
Lauderhill, FL 33313

Replies to suggestions: 1) We won't. 2) We'll try. 3) We will. 4) Okay—how do you like our new ACTION/REACTION logo?—Bob Rozakis